



A STUDY GUIDE FOR MOLLY'S STORY

A DOG'S PURPOSE NOVEL BY
W. Bruce Cameron

STUDY GUIDE WRITTEN BY
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CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

burrow
hoisted
astounded
fostering
investigate
muzzle
injustice
plummy
obliged

1. **(POINT OF VIEW RL.4.6)** Molly says several times, “to teach it who was boss.” What does this tell you about point of view? Who is telling the story and how does this impact the reader?
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What is Molly using to play tug of war?
3. **(COMPARE/CONTRAST RL.4.3)** Compare Che’s behavior to Barney’s. Use two details in the text to support your answer.
4. **(OPINION WRITING W.4.1.a)** What is your opinion of fostering dogs? Be sure to include at least three reasons for your opinion.

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

devoured
smitten
hesitated
steadily

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1 AND HUMOR)** How does author W. Bruce Cameron use humor to describe a young boy and girl? Cite the detail that explains this humor.
2. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you infer about Molly’s feelings at the end of Chapter 2? Cite a detail from the text to support your thinking.
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why does CJ not take Molly when she leaves? What detail in the text explains this?



CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

affectionately
jolted
stubbornly
shushed
billowy
staggered
dismay
bewildering
anxiety

1. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you infer about Daisy's past based on the line "Daisy seemed happier, in fact, with fewer people around"?
2. **(RESEARCH W.4.7)** Research the following facts about Aspen.
 - State?
 - Longitude and Latitude?
 - Average temperature in January?
3. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Do you think CJ really needed a yogurt (Pg. 31) because she hungry or was there another reason? Explain.
4. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What is the clue sentence that explains why Gloria did not hear Molly whining in the basement?

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

clattering
fiddled

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE AND DETAILS RI.4.1)** When Molly explores the upstairs with CJ, what are the following objects in actuality and what clue words help the reader make these inferences?

Molly's Words	Actual Object	Clue Words in Text
Flat piece of glass		
Square pieces of paper		
It had a promising smell, like sweat and dirt and something animal-like.		

2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Molly thinks the dog at the park is named Get Back Here Milo? Use a detail from the text to support your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** CJ says, "I need you not to bark, okay, Molly?" Why does CJ say this to Molly? Use a detail to support your answer.





CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

familiar
gape
clattering
indignant
loyalty
heave
truant

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** W. Bruce Cameron writes, "I bet it came in because it smelled your stupid coat!" (Pg. 53) Why do you think CJ does not like Gloria's fur coat?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How can the reader tell that CJ is not going to school every day? State the detail in the text that reveals this.
3. **(W.4.3.C SUMMARY/TIME ORDER TRANSITION WORDS)** Explain the game that CJ played with Molly to teach her to not to bark when under the basement steps. Be sure to use time order words such as: first, second, next, finally.
4. **(RF.4.4 CONTEXT CLUES)** W. Bruce Cameron writes, "Miss Mahoney? I'm Officer Llewellyn. I'm a truant officer." (Pg. 64) What sentence on this page explains what a truant officer is?



CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

citation
bewildered
metallic
deftly
indignantly

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think the police officer is confused by Gloria's response to the citation? Use a detail to support your inference.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Who do you think the men were who scooped up Molly and put her in the van? What details help the reader know this? List at least two details that give clues.
3. **(RL.4.3 COMPARING CHARACTER TRAITS)** A conflict arises in Chapter 6 when the truth about Molly is revealed. Gloria and CJ are at odds with one another due to Molly. Create a chart describing the character traits of both Gloria and CJ. Then explain how this conflict changes the story using details to describe their different actions.
4. **(W.4.9.a DRAW EVIDENCE FROM LITERARY TEXT TO DESCRIBE CHARACTER)** Using the chart of character traits and details from the text, explain how the actions of both CJ and Gloria reveal their character traits.



CHAPTER seven

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

collapsed
affection
baffled
turpentine



1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does CJ not want to teach Molly any tricks?
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Trent says nothing is wrong when Molly asks him, yet he is not happy either? Use a detail to support your inference.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did Molly try to stay away from Shane? Use at least two details in the text to support your answer.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What are the students in CJ's art class drawing a portrait of? State two details that provide evidence for your answer.

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

enticing
wafted
saliva
tentatively
content
heaved
tension
exasperation

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** List at least three details that tell the reader that the cheese was not good for Molly.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Gloria allowed Molly to eat the cheese and never told CJ about the cheese that made Molly sick? Use one detail in the text to support your inference.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How can you tell that Shane does not like Molly? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why does Trent say, "Uh, no, my mom said I have to mow the lawn" when CJ asks him to come inside?
5. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** Describe Shane's character based on his actions and Molly's thoughts about Shane in Chapter 8. Use text evidence in your answer.



CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

inspiration

edible

urgently

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Shane ask to come inside the art studio?
2. **(RI.4.4 DETAILS)** How does Molly sense that CJ is nervous when Shane enters the art room? Provide details from the text.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What sentence on Pg. 101 gives the reader a hint that Shane might be stealing from the art teacher? Use quotation marks.
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Sheryl began to relax after CJ explained what Shane did in the art room, even though it involved stealing?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Is Gloria more worried about herself or more worried about CJ? Provide a detail as evidence to support your answer.
6. **(PREDICTION BASED ON CHARACTER'S ACTIONS)** What community service project do you think CJ will choose from the four choices given to her? Explain your prediction.

CHAPTER TEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

diagnose

lingered

tension

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What type of training is Andi doing with the dogs at the kennel?
2. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH)** Using a trusted internet source, do research on dogs that are trained to sniff cancer. How long has this been happening?
3. **(RL.4.4 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Andi was using buckets first and then people for Luke to sniff?
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did Molly finally get a treat from Andi? Use a detail to explain Molly's actions for the treat.





CHAPTER ELEVEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

sternly
frantically
appeal



1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why is CJ giving Molly a bath? Use text evidence in your answer.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is the purpose for the evening out with Gloria and Gus? Use a detail to support your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS AND W.4.2.B QUOTATION MARKS)** Why is CJ nervous about seeing Sheryl at the art show? Support your answer with evidence from the text using quotation marks.
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Molly lies down and crosses her paws when she sees Sheryl?

CHAPTER TWELVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

civilized
dreadful

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How did Trent stick up for CJ at the art show? Explain with details from the text.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What can you infer about Trent's feelings toward Gus? Use a detail to support your inference.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think CJ tiptoed down the hall and to her bedroom at the end of the chapter?
4. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** Describe Gloria's character based on her actions. Be sure to use Gloria's actions in Chapter 11 as evidence for her character traits. Use at least two different character traits.
5. **(W.4.3.C SUMMARY WRITING AND W.4.3.C TIME ORDER)** In Chapter 12, the characters show emotions of anger and frustration. Write a summary of the events that took place in this chapter and be sure to explain why CJ, Gloria, Gus, and Trent were so upset in this chapter. Be sure to use transition words.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

hesitantly

bayed

bellowed

deftly

frantic

reluctantly

defiantly

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Gloria told the woman, "I found this poor dog abandoned in the streets. There's no telling how long he's been living like that, alone and far, far away from his family."
2. **(W.4.1.A OPINION WRITING)** At the end of the chapter CJ says, "Just one more day. Then I promise you'll never see Molly again." (Pg. 159) What is your opinion? Do you think CJ should give Molly away? Or do you think CJ should find a way to keep Molly? State your opinion and provide reasons to support your opinion.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

delectable

wearily

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** How do you think CJ chose the different houses to visit when running away from home? Use a detail to support your inference.
2. **(RF.4.4 CONTEXT CLUES)** W. Bruce Cameron states, "CJ often slept on the floor in a sort of sack that was made of silky, rustling material, very good for burrowing into." What is this object?
3. **(RL.4.4 INFERENCE)** On Pg. 166, Emily asks if she can go with CJ to her aunt's house, but CJ says, "No!" Why do you think she says no? Use a detail from the text to support your answer.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** In the boxes below, name all the people/pets that CJ and Molly visited when they were homeless in Chapter 14.



1 ST HOUSE	2 ND HOUSE	3 RD HOUSE	4 TH HOUSE
Girl :	# of Cats:	Two types of Dogs: _____	Girl :
Cat:			Boy:
Dog:	# of Dogs:	_____	Rats:
Days:			Nights:



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

defend
awkwardly



1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What game does Molly use to compare keeping quiet in the garage?
2. **(L.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE-ONOMATOPOEIA)** What words are used to compare the sound of the garage door coming down?
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What can you infer about Molly's feelings when she says, "I couldn't do anything but stay close all night, keeping her as warm as I could"? (Pg. 173)
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What kind of message do you think Andi is trying to give CJ when she says, "You can't run away from your problems. They'll always find you." (Pg. 178) Be sure to explain this message by describing what you think CJ should do next.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

tremble
bristled

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think CJ sat on the front steps of her house instead of going inside after being away from home so long? What was she thinking?
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** How can you tell that Gloria is proud of CJ? Use a detail from the text to support your inference.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What saved CJ from Shane's rude behavior? Use a detail to support your answer.



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

satisfactory

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Sheryl go to visit CJ? What is her news? Use details in the text to support your answer.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS AND QUOTATIONS W.4.2.B.)** What evidence shows that CJ is ready to face her problem? Use quotation marks when quoting the text.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How does Sheryl help CJ convince Gloria to keep Molly? Provide evidence from the text.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What do you think was a nice surprise for CJ when Sheryl left?

